

Memorandum to the Deputy Chairman

July 24, 1952

Subject: Talks with Mr. Abramchik of the Belorussian RABA

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About a month ago an arrangement was made by [] to subsidize the Belorussian newspaper, "Batkovshina". The money for this newspaper was given to Mr. Litke who represented the Belorussians at Starnberg. He later discovered that the money was not being used for this newspaper but to finance a new newspaper of Litke. To straighten out this matter I had a long talk with Mr. Abramchik.

The situation is as follows: "Batkovshina" is an independent Belorussian newspaper supporting the RABA and somewhat critical of the work of our Committee. Abramchik told me that he is using his influence to eliminate the criticism of our Committee. He is not completely successful and intends to come personally to Munich to discuss this matter with the editor. He believes that even if we take over the financing of that newspaper, we will not succeed in making the editor change his policy. The paper is an independent one and wishes to remain so. Therefore, Mr. Abramchik would like us to finance Litke who is going to publish not a newspaper but a monthly political magazine. The policies of that magazine are going to be based on complete support of the work of our Committee. The RABA itself could not participate openly because of serious dissents within it. Nobody knew about the new setup except Mr. Tshintse and []. The Starnberg conference was, therefore, faced with a difficult problem. As only the Wiesbaden participants were invited to Starnberg, the question arose whether a new Belorussian organization should be admitted at all. Mainly through Tshintse's insistence the Belorussians were admitted. Unfortunately, the personality of the Belorussian representative, Mr. Litke, damaged the Belorussian cause. A young and inexperienced man, he stepped on everybody's toes, often insulting the Russians. Instead of concentrating on the main issues, he picked quarrels on insignificant matters. For instance, he insisted that application blanks for employees be printed in Belorussian in addition to Russian and English. Of course, he couldn't win this point because we would have to print them in possibly 30 languages. I talked to Mr. Abramchik about Litke and he promised to talk to Litke and try to make him change his ways.

On my return to Munich I found a letter from a Mr. Ostrowsky, a leader of another Belorussian organization, in which he informs us that we were dealing with a non-existent Belorussian organization comprised only of Mr. Litke and a couple of his friends. Mr. Ostrowsky probably does not know that this organization was created by the RABA for the specific purpose of participating in our work, but if such criticism appears in print, it may damage our cause as we cannot divulge the connection between this organization and the RABA. I will talk to Mr. Abramchik and see if some pronouncement by the RABA of its support of our Committee and of Litke's organization cannot be obtained.

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